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GOOD LUCK
SING '58

MIDWOOD ARGUS

Vol. XXXVI. No. 4 ...N, N. Y. December 19, 1958

HOLIDAY CAROLS TO GREET GRADS ON DECEMBER 23

Midwood will hold its annual Christmas Alumni Concert on December 23. This event will feature all the major instrumental and choral groups of the school.

Under the direction of Mr. Chancy the band will offer selections from "My Fair Lady," and the "March Slav." Mr. Rosenberg's band will play the "Caprezioso Espanol," "Il Bochie," and a "Haitian" folk song. Lisa Infante will be the soloist in the last of these two numbers.

The Mixed Chorus will sing the following: "Christmas Hymn," with echo chorus, "Angels We Have Heard On High," "Let All The Nations Praise The Lord," "Gospodie Pomilui," "Fireflies," and "Now Let The Full Tone Chorus." Mr. Nathan Levine will conduct the chorus. Mr. Gottlieb's Girl's Chorus will sing: "Mexican Wanderer Song," "I know The Lord." "None But The Lonely Heart," and "Wake With Dawn." At press time, the program for the Boys' Chorus was not available.

The Christmas assemblies at Kensington will display the Kensington Orchestra and the Choraliers on December 22 and 23. Under Mr. Rosenberg's leadership, the orchestra will play "Greensleeves," and the "Military Escort March".

The Choraliers, led by Mrs. Heller, will sing, "The Evening Prayer," and "Sit Down Servant," with solos by Harriet Irom, Judy Roman, and Allen Raskin. Holiday songs will include, "Deck The Halls," "Angels We Have On High." and "White Christmas." Margaret Siestas will be at the piano. As an added attraction Mrs. Greenberg will sing "The Lord's Prayer." Kensington students will then introduce their Sing Alma Mater.

Sing '58 Opens Tonight at Academy

The first performance of Midwood's twelfth annual Sing will take place at the Brooklyn Academy of Music tonight, December 19.

Sing will open to reveal Kensington, Midwood's annex, temporarily transformed into a South Sea Calypso Island. Buzz Bleeker, Chairman of Kensington Sing, commented, "A Kensington victory would not only break the Sing precedents of Midwood, but would also link the annex with the main building."

After Kensington's performance, the Sophs will help Japan build a strong democratic school.

The Juniors, who hope to win Sing by painting a mural picturing the contributions of man through the ages, will perform after the intermission.

The Seniors, who will terminate Sing, are changing Midwood into a college training core program.

This year there are four judges each night instead of the usual three. It is felt that in this way, each vote will not weigh as heavily upon the final decision.

The judges for tonight are Mrs. O'Brien, Mrs. Weiss, Mr. Kesten and Mr. Kussin. Tomorrow's judges will be Mr. Kantrowitz, Mr. Dorf, Mrs. Elaine Greenberg and Mr. Weiss.

Sing Button, 1958

Many students are dissatisfied with holding Sing at the Brooklyn Academy of Music because they feel that this change reduces the spirit that usually accompanies the performances. However, this change offers many advantages, such as the opportunity to have many more viewers. If Sing were to be held in Midwood, only one parent of each participant would be able to attend. Also, neither the alumni nor the actual performers would be able to witness Sing. Having it at the Academy enables many more parents, guests, alumni, and students to see Sing '58. The above is the joint opinion of Sing Commissioners, Diana Stern and Judie Miller.

As usual, the Sing Booklet will be sold at both performances. The proceeds will go to the Midwood Memorial Scholarship Fund and the City of Midwood. The Sing Booklet Commission is headed by Sandy Lipschitz.

"Independent" Publisher Addresses SS Forum; Sees Limits on Freedom in American Press

By DAVID HIMMELSTEIN

Lyle Stuart, the editor and publisher of the monthly newspaper, "The Independent," addressed a large audience at the December meeting of the Social Studies Forum. The guest speaker discussed the question, "Is there freedom of the press in America today?"

Mr. Stuart began by stating that there are definite limitations to the exercise of freedom of the press. He first cited the prohibitive cost of starting a daily newspaper today. A second limit mentioned was forced obedience by journalists to the opinions of the publisher.

Of these opinions Mr. Stuart remarked, "No one tells us what they are; you just know them or you wouldn't be able to hold your job."

He then turned to pressure by advertisers, saying that nothing against big business appears in the big newspapers. As a recent example, he pointed out the complete absence of coverage on the report of an important Congressional study of American cars which was highly critical of the automobile corporations.

Mr. Stuart mentioned the influence of various pressure groups, naming as specific examples Christian Scientists, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Anti-Defamation League. In connection with this last group, he told of the A.D.L.'s unsuccessful efforts to put "The Independent" out of business, after his publication had printed an article charging corruption in the upper echelons of the League.

He listed "taboos" as a final limitation on freedom of the press. He asserted that there are certain subjects about which "no paper in the country will do an honest story." Among such subjects he included sex and the political influence of religious groups.

Mr. Stuart went on to explain that he had begun "The Independent" to publish articles of a controversial nature that could never appear in the daily press because of its previously mentioned restrictions. To supplement this aim, he is now also engaged in publishing books of a similar kind. Funds for this enterprise, he revealed, came originally from money collected in libel suits against Walter Winchell and **Editor and Publisher** magazine.

Offering a concluding word of advice to students attending the forum, he urged them to adopt "a healthy skepticism. Don't believe everything you see in print—even in our publication."

Students Choose Nyman

By NEIL LEVY

Gary Nyman won as mayor according to phone call this paper received at five PM on December 15. The election committee was kind enough to forward the information to the printer for your convenience. No further results were available at that time.

Midwood's Councils have selected Dave Rubinson, Billy Minkin, and Gary Nyman to compete for the position of Mayor of the City of Midwood. They also have chosen candidates for all other major City of Midwood and non-senior term offices. As this paper went to press, the election commission had not yet completed tabulating the results of the school-wide election.

At the A.M. Council, Dave pleaded the cause of brotherhood. He maintained that Midwood should have more activities dealing with this subject, for this would "truly increase the stature" of Midwood High. Billy emphasized the need for a "deeper respect for student government among the student body." Gary stated that he was capable, with the aid of student suggestions, of giving Midwood the leadership it needs.

Jerry Lazar, Bruce Saypol, and Joe Mello ran for Comptrollor while Barbara Handshu, Judy Simonson and Larry Adlesohn vied for the post as Executive Secretary. This year, for the first time, in accordance with an amendment approved on last year's ballot, the fourth major city office in the Kensington Coordinator. This new position, replacing the previous job of P.M. Coordinator, will be filled by either Joanne Goodman, Irwin Feifer, or Bonnie Galton.

Fran Haber, Ken Kramer, and Linda Santulli contended for the junior presidency, while Judy Fleiss, and Wendy Zonan vied for veep. The new prexy of the sophomores will be Mike Fisher, Bob Ross, Nick Rummo, or Austin Sobers, and the vice president Bruce Bleecker, Larry Migdalek, Suzie Nyman, or Avi Stachenfeld. Judy Lager, Nancy Schlesinger and Ellen Weintraub were the aspirants for the position of head of the freshman class, while Ina Brown, Anita Levy, Richard Marsh and Marjie Myers competed to become veep. The seniors will elect their leaders early next term.

COLLEGE NIGHT CROWDS, FORTY MENTORS CONFER

Midwood held its first College Night at 8 P.M. on Wednesday, Nov. 19. Representatives from forty-one colleges, universities, junior colleges and business schools of the New York Metropolitan area attended.

Through the combined efforts of Miss Bradshaw and Mr. Cohen, College Advisers, and Mark Baskir, College Commissioner, "College Nite" was, in the words of all concerned "a complete success and a great benefit" to the approximately two thousand juniors, seniors and parents who attended.

After a dinner prepared and served by Mrs. Fane and her Home Economics Staff, and paid for by the P.T.A., the college representatives proceeded to their respective rooms. The program was divided into four half-hour sessions, beginning at 8:15 and ending at 10:15.

Advance publicity for this meeting included articles in the New York Daily News, New York World Telegram and Sun, Argus, and three thousand flyers distributed among the junior and senior classes.

In a letter to Miss Bradshaw, a student commended Midwood's staff on the success of "College Night." She added that "All the speakers were excellent and some very valuable information was given out."

Mrs. Sexton Proctor, Director of Admissions, Mills College, thanked the College Advisers and stated that "It was a pleasure to be there; everything was so well organized."

City Roundup..

Nine Enter Scientific Search

Nine Midwood students entered the eighteenth annual Westinghouse Science Talent Search on December 1. The entrants were: Herbert Bernstein, David Friedland, Lee Horowitz, Michael Jaffe, Harvey Kinon, Michael Lehr, Abbram Shulsky, Philip Zarrin, and Robert Zarrow.

As part of the preliminary examination, each contestant was required to submit a report of about one thousand words on his project. The judges will select forty winners, based on the test scores of the contestants, their school records, and their research papers. These students will be given all-expense paid trips to Washington to attend the Science Talent Institute February 26 through March 2, and to compete for the top honors. The first five winners will receive Westinghouse Science Scholarships, ranging from $3000 to $7500.

The Kensington Council debated several pressing school problems at its last meeting. The first of these was a motion to change the City of Midwood Constitution in order to allow for two sophomore presidents.

This plan would provide for one of these officers to serve in the annex and the other in the main building. Mrs. Janet Schonbrun, City of Midwood faculty advisor at Kensington, explained that "this change would safeguard the interests of each group, especially as there is a minority of sophomores in the annex."

The council also discussed the office of Kensington Coordinator. This post will be officially initiated next term.

Bob Harlem, City of Midwood Executive Secretary, is continuing his City of Midwood classes to orient Kensingtonites to the workings of the student government.

At the last meeting, extra-curricular activities were stressed. The students discused the cheerleaders, Boosters, Arista and Archon. The Executive Secretary also explained the responsibilities of each of the major City of Midwood offices.

Several of the City of Midwood commissions are supplementing their membership by including students of the annex. Such commissions as Ticket Sales, Recreation, Sing Publicity, and F.D.R. are already working actively with annex students.

Sylvia Kupik won a scholarship to the Centre D'Art Dramatique, French dramatic school, in a recent city wide competition. The two other contestants from this school were Liz Emil and Bobbie Zeidman.

Mme. Daniel and M. Lewis head the school. These two professors select students for their ability to speak and read the French language. They hold classes in New York at Washington Irving High School. The center admits forty-five students annually, each one on scholarship. The government of France and the Association of American Teachers of French subsidize the institution.

On her new opportunity, Sylvia commented, "I feel that this scholarship will help me achieve a better understanding of French language and art."

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EDITORIAL .....

The major purpose of education is to teach the individual as much as possible, consistent with certain attitudes toward people and society. We feel that the educational system that exists today in the United States, a system based on the separation of the intelligent from the average student, is fulfilling this purpose inadequately.

The current system has arisen from a very real problem. Since the ability to learn varies greatly within any group of students selected at random, the teacher must always adjust the level of instruction to the ability of the slowest members of a class; as a result, the brightest students suffer.

American educators attempted to solve the problem by dividing students into groups based on their intelligence, and providing separate classes or schools for each: thus the majority of students could take full advantage of their capacity to learn, without impairing the quality of education received by the especially gifted.

We are not criticizing this method of organizing education as undemocratic. Quite the contrary: we feel that it is undemocratic **not** to give the above-average intelligence the opportunity to develop fully. But we do feel that any system that segregates students according to intelligence deprives them of certain important things. It eliminates the stimulation of the slower students by the more intelligent and deprives the more intelligent of an awareness of both the existence and problems of the slower. Further, the separation of the "smart" from the "stupid" tends to develop intellectual snobbery; it also breeds resentment, jealousy, and eventually, a dislike for the intelligent. Any education system that results in bad feeling for the intelligent is defeating its own purpose.

What then is the answer? The present system has numerous defects that cannot be overlooked; the former system is undemocratic.

We feel that the only solution lies in a combination of the two methods. Is it not possible to develop ways of adapting instruction to the abilities of different groups of students **within one classroom?** We understand that this is the official policy of the Board of Education in elementary schools; why not apply it to junior high and high schools as well? True it has immense practical difficulties: the teacher's work required, in preparing tests, homework assignments, and classwork for three different groups within each, would be staggering. Yet some solution must be found, and would this not be at least a step in the right direction? *K.P.*

MIDWOOD ARGUS

MIDWOOD HIGH SCHOOL
Brooklyn, New York
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor of the Midwood Argus:

I read in your November issue of Argus the concern of Dr. Bernstein over the incidents at our athletic events. I also have been disturbed by these incidents, and in order to do something about them, I brought the matter before the City Council at its November meeting. There I asked for a committee to be formed to curb these incidents and bring back sportsmanship and "gentlemanly conduct." This motion was voted upon and was defeated by a twenty one to nineteen vote.

It is now up to the Brooklyn Borough Council to try to solve the existing problem. They have been informed about the incidents and a plan of action is taking place.

Margaret Sealy 484A
City Council Representative

To the editor of the Midwood Argus:

I went to Midwood until last year. This year I started at San Gabriel High School in California. The school was opened in 1955. You can go through the school and hold a close inspection but you would not find a scratch on a desk or a mark on the walls. The books look like you were the first one to use them.

Out here, the school tax is divided among a smaller population and the parents pay a large tax. For that reason they are very careful about vandalism. If you mark up a book, you must pay the full price of it.

Couldn't this be done in [redacted] York? You'd be surprised at the results.

Sincerely yours,
Bill Mann
San Gabriel, California

To the Editor of the Midwood Argus:

We have read your feature on the adoption of Suzanne and are very much interested in finding out how you went about it. Any information you can give us on the subject will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Sharlene Schop
The Beachcomber
Miami Beach High School
Miami Beach, Florida

Ed. note: We have forwarded your letter to the City of Midwood which will send you the necessary information as you requested.

To the Editor of Midwood Argus:

The entire school is busily involved in the election of City of Midwood officers. Election assemblies are held to acquaint us with candidates for office, their aims and their goals if elected to their respective posts.

Unfortunately, only a limited number of classes may attend these two campaign assemblies. Our homeroom is one of the classes omitted from these rallies. How can we be expected to exercise intelligently our voting powers when we have no idea of what the platforms or aims of the candidates are?

We feel that this situation could be remedied by not only having the regular and accustomed assemblies, but also having, in addition, broadcasts of all speeches into all homerooms. Something should be done to correct this method of campaigning so that we not only know for whom we're voting but for what we're voting.

HR 454A

Mayor's Desk

As I write this Mayor's Desk, the primaries for city and term officers are now in progress. As you read this article, you the student body will have elected a new mayor.

It is hard for me to accept the fact that in the near future someone else will assume the duties of mayor of Midwood High School. To be truthful, I have seriously thought of running for re-election. I look at my comparatively short tenure of office and ask myself if I really want to give up the job of mayor.

I have learned to love my job. I have found that the position of mayor affords me tangible means of getting things done. I have learned to "eat and sleep" the job of mayor. Way down deep, I want to be mayor again.

But there are many other qualified people, the students who have wanted to hold the office of mayor for many terms. For this and many other reasons I have decided not to run for re-election.

I am proud and happy to be your mayor and for the remainder of my term of office I shall not slacken in my attempts to "leave my office greater and better than I found it."

I want to congratulate the newly elected mayor on his elction. You do not, as yet know the wonderful opportunities your job holds.

Ed Skloot,
Mayor

Principal's Message

Dear Boys and Girls:

The tragic loss of life in the school fire in Chicago must carry important lessons for all of us. It seems to me that three points deserve emphasis and repetition until we all, without exception, understand and apply them while in our building. This applies to halls, classrooms, cafeteria, stairways and lockers. A clean building is a safe as well as a beautiful building. The metal disposal can and the waste basket are the only proper receptacles for discarded scraps or paper.

Second: It is impossible to provide a safe place in which students may be permitted to smoke; and it is against the law. I am sure that if the Chicago fire originated with a careless student who dropped a cigarette, that student, if he survived the fire, will have a horrible burden to carry all his life. We must insist that smoking, if your parents approve of it, be limited to areas away from this building, not in it or on the sidewalks or steps adjacent to it.

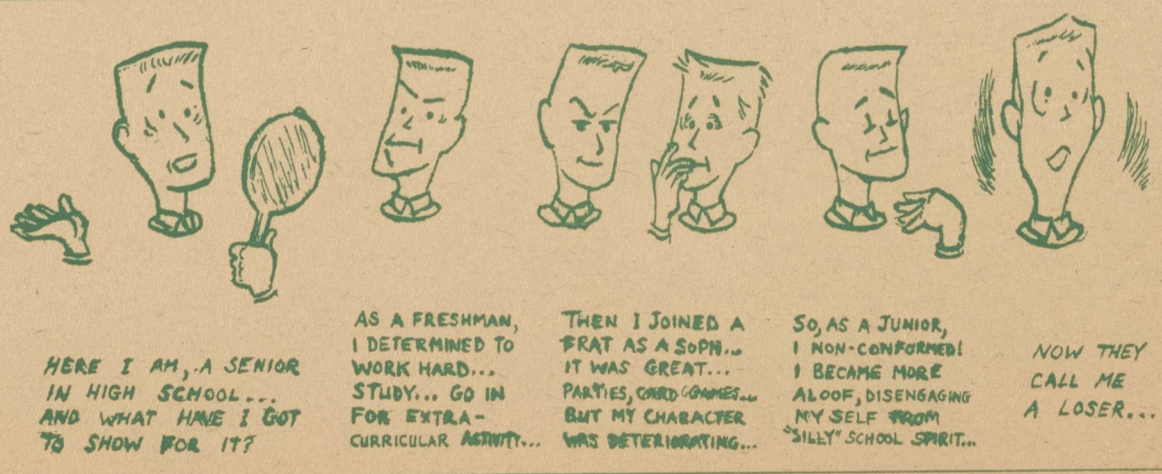
Third: The fire drill must be conducted with complete seriousness of purpose. You must understand that absolute silence must prevail throughout the drill, so that orders can be given, or changed, to meet changed conditions. For example, a stairway or door may be blocked, and as a result instructions for change of directions may be given and heard by everyone. This silence may be maintained, not only on the way out of the classroom and building, but also on the way back at the conclusion of the drill.

We have a modern, "fireproof" building. But complete safety can be attained only by cooperation with and consideration for others. Yes, in this matter of fire prevention and safety, you are "your brother's keeper". Please act accordingly.

Sincerely yours,
J. L. Bernstein,
Principal

Hank

JON HORN


HERE I AM, A SENIOR IN HIGH SCHOOL... AND WHAT HAVE I GOT TO SHOW FOR IT?
AS A FRESHMAN, I DETERMINED TO WORK HARD... STUDY... GO IN FOR EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITY...
THEN I JOINED A FRAT AS A SOPH... IT WAS GREAT... PARTIES, CARD GAMES... BUT MY CHARACTER WAS DETERIORATING...
SO, AS A JUNIOR, I NON-CONFORMED! I BECAME MORE ALOOF, DISENGAGING MYSELF FROM "SILLY" SCHOOL SPIRIT...
NOW THEY CALL ME A LOSER...

Want Informality? Try Folk-Dancing

Recently, quite a few kids have "discovered" folk-singing. More and more, teen groups are featuring get-togethers where friends mix voices in song. This pastime, coupled with discussions of world and school affairs and some dancing (cha-cha, lindy, etc.) is the conglomeration which provides them with week-end recreation. Folk-singing to fox-trotting, all in a matter of minutes, seems a rather awkward transition.

Folk-songs, which are based on old tales, have been handed down from generation to generation. Popular music, on the other hand, is completely contemporary, having been created mostly by kids themselves.

This cultural potpourri may add something to a party, but why not make it complete and add folk-dancing?

Too few teen-agers are familiar with the fun of folk-dancing; too many associate it with square dancing which they in turn associate with "Squares". Actually, the "square" dance (so-called because of the box-like arrangement of four people) is the American form of the folk-dance. It can hardly be used as an example, since folk dances and their music come from many different countries and therefore vary considerably.

A party geared to an informal atmosphere is lacking something worthwhile without this addition, for the clothing and spirit present at a folk-dance are the epitome of informality. People who attend this sort of affair know the joy of wearing, uncriticized, whatever pleases them; a "come-as-you-like" arrangement.

What's more, no one need be a wallflower at a folk dance, for in this game, if a boy doesn't ask a girl to dance, she asks him!

Barbara Weiner

SKIERS EMERGE EN MASSE

Winter is a miserable season for most people. Nothing is certain but cold, snow, and Regents Exams, for ordinary mortals. To a certain group, however, it is the best time of the year. This species of winter love is the skier.

A skier has certain unusual habits that set him apart from the rest of the crowd. His life cycle is the reverse of the usual one; he is most active during anuary and February and goes into hibernation when the warm weather sets in. He begins to become active again in late November. Before he realizes it, it is mid-December, and he is busily preparing for his Christmas vacation. This is supposed to be the high point of his year, but he invariably picks on the one place which has no snow, so all his planso go awry and he winds up skiing at one of the popular resorts, along with several thousand others. As a result, he spends most of his time waiting on line for the ski tow, which is just the thing he was trying to avoid.

During the winter months, the skier reaches the height of his annual fever, and walks around muttering phrases like, "Gee, there are 40 inches (of snow) at Mt. Snow." This is a passing phase, he must be humored. Tell him that he might be able to get away next weekend if not this time. Repeat this for eight weeks and the season is over. Then he will sorrowfully put his skiis into their racks and wait for the cycle to start over again.

There's No Place Like the North Pole

"Sure he did. He always did," wailed the little boy. "Santa Claus always lived at the North Pole," he shrieked at his companion.

"You're all wet," the other insisted.

"Who you calling wet?"

"You!"

"Izzatso!"

"Yeah!"

At this point, the advocate of Santa's perpetual tenancy at the top of the world started to revert to his base instincts and use violent methods of persuasion. As a matter of fact, he punched the other guy in the nose. I then decided to step in and stop the fight before it went any further. "You know," I said, pulling the two apart "what he says is true. Santa didn't always live at the North Pole." I thought fast. He used to live in Hoboken, but his wife wanted him to get away from it all and leave the city. His doctor advised him to take a rest, which would lower his blood pressure. So, he decided, he would retire to a resort. Even better, he would build one for himself and take a part time job after he got there.

"Santa spent most of his time for the next few months deliberating on the site of his new retreat. He considered Florida, Hawaii, California, and many other locations, but none of them satisfied him. He wanted something very special.

"One day, he came home and announced gleefully, 'I've found it. It's great. The most terrific site in the world for my new house.' "

"And I suppose this great spot was the North Pole," chimed in the little boy, with a touch of sarcasm.

"Sure it was," I answered.

"But why in the world would he want a place like that? It's the coldest place there is," countered the skeptical boy.

Now I sprung my secret weapon. "That's just the question his wife asked," I told him. "He answered it by saying that it was the ideal site for the most unique house ever built. It was so good, he insisted, because of one characteristic that his house would have which builders had been trying to achieve for years. Every window would have a southern exposure!"

The boys seemed momentarily stunned by this argument, so I picked that time to beat a strategic retreat. However, I was not too far away a few seconds later to hear a juvenile voice say, "Boy, we get all kinds around here!"

Spotlight

Larry Rosenblum is a straightforward, personable young man. Upon graduation from college, he hopes to enter the field of architecture, a business requiring engineering, art, and business talent.

Larry likes to look at anything beautiful, from a Renaissance painting to a modern building. After, trying to further his interest in architecture, he studies the designs of the new 1959 automobiles. He wants to discover "what appeals to him and why."

Because of his ability to lead, Larry has served as a vital part of Sing for the past four years. In the positions of secretary, co-chairman, chairman, and sing commissioner, he has coordinated talent in various forms of art. "Sing," he states, "is an outlet for unexplored talents. Because it offers something for every student, it definitely is a great asset to the school."

To further his interest in music, Larry has been a faithful member of Mixed Chorus since his freshman year. He feels that, "Mixed Chorus is an example of what can be accomplished when people gather with a common purpose and unselfishly sacrifice their personal interests."

Larry was unanimously re-elected boy leader of Archon for the spring term after having served successfully in the fall. Larry is a conscientious worker in all fields, (and this is no exception). He is "bursting" with plans and ideas to improve the present organization. Larry's main project calls for a change in the point system requirements for admission to Archon. He believes that service prerequisites should be flexible, changing according to number of majors and activities.

Larry likes "to create anything beautiful." In conjunction with this, he paints in his spare time, has studied the organ, and listens to classical music. He enjoys those things which challenge him, and feels "one doesn't have to be adept at something to appreciate it." He plays a good game of tennis, and enjoys an occasional evening spent in leather carving.

Larry gives his complete attention to his work. "To derive enjoyment from art, one must not be rushed. Eating and sleeping," he complains, "are interruptions!"

Sue Cohen

Meet Your Teacher

Mr. Max Weiss tries. Of course, that's the most anyone can do. Yet this mathematics teacher succeeds.

Mr. Weiss tries to make his class more interesting. He injects little elements of comedy to "pep them [both classes and students] up!" His now famous call of the studious math student is a by-word among those few who are the recipients of the "advice of Weiss": **BSM**—"Box it, Star it, Memorize it!" He tries to make geometry (or what have you) more "palatable", like a savory roast of beef (to use Mr. Weiss' own analogy). But luckily, he knows you can't eat mathematics and so . . . he continually tries.

Mr. Weiss

"I enjoy teaching," he says with a twinkle in his eye (a faint phosphorescence which has flabbergasted many a student struggling with the rule for the 30-60-90 degree triangle), "because I like young people." That is also probably why Mr. Weiss helped to develop the Math-Science curriculum for students with unusual ability. "They are a challenge to me; as much of a challenge as [believe it or not] math is," he says.

Mr. Weiss tries to enrich the classroom with experiences gained outside of school. He can do that admirably. He was graduated from City College (the date shall not be mentioned) and received his Master's Degree at New York University. He has always enjoyed golf and other outdoor sports. "Unfortunately," he says, "I am now usually among the spectators." (The inexorable march of time, y'know.) He still enjoys (to borrow a technique): GB, GM, and GT—good books, good music and good theater.

"Math is like a little puzzle," he announces to his class. The trick is, of course, to get all the pieces to fit. But Mr. Weiss teaches that feat of prestidigitation. That is why, whenever he asks his students to thank him for preparing them so soundly for the midterm, they politely say: "Thank you, Mr. Weiss."

But above all, that's because Mr. Weiss tries.

Peter Melnick

Coney Island Dons Wan Winter Wraps, Surprises Unwary Summer Simpletons

The Christmas camp reunion was to be held this year at Coney Island. True, it is a strange place for a camp reunion, but not to kids who are away all summer and never get to see the "island."

You hear this, and you wonder if the place could possibly be the same in the winter as the summer. You take a trip to Coney and find to your dismay a gray, chilly, ghost-ridden town. More than half the rides are shut down. The huge crowds and the dirt in the streets are missing. You walk around wondering if Eddie Cantor really got his start here as a singing waiter, and sadly realize Coney could never be the same.

But there is the ferris wheel, the cyclone, and the whip. There are the freak shows bragging of a half-woman, half-turtle, or the extraordinary, "something-you-have-to-see-to-believe" man with four feet. There are the amusement parks, the tea shops serving tea and fortune cookies, the candy shops selling cotton candy and custard. Next to the candy shops can be found fortune tellers who, for a buck, will tell you that you'll "have a long life."

You take a walk on the boardwalk and stare out at the barren waste which was occupied by a mass of people on a beach last Labor Day, and you shiver watching the waves breaking against the shore.

You've seen enough to be convinced. At the subway, you stop and take one more long look. No, it will never be the same in the winter as in the summer. But to a bunch of kids who go to a camp, and don't know Coney Island in the summer as I do, it will be one great camp reunion!

Midmoods....

BOB SCHWARTZ

By all logic, the snow is something that should be despised by all except little children and skiers, but I love it. It causes all kinds of trouble for the world of business and transportation, but I still love it. It brings cold weather which invariably makes the oil-burner in my house break down, but I still love it. I love it despite all the little annoyances it causes, and perhaps because of them.

When the snow has fallen, and I look out and survey my block, it might just as well be a foreign land for all the similarity it has to the place where I usually live. During the storm, the entire landscape is a funeral grey, and the snow-laden trees look like giant mourners for the departed sun. After the sky has cleared, however, the sun returns with unparalleled brilliance. All the houses, cars and trees seem to stand out in bold relief, and sparkle like a million tiny diamonds. Everything looks so pure and white, in sharp contrast to the usual dirtiness of the city.

Life in a great city like New York has been developed to such a point that almost nothing can seriously disrupt it. Security has been increased, but at the price of the loss of the spirit of adventure.

The snow changes all of this. It is one of the few influences that disturbs the urban idyll. It's very suddenness and ferocity is the antithesis of all that the city stands for, and that is why I, as a city dweller, love it. It supplies some measure of uncertainty and hardship to my extremely ordered life. This is the great service of the snow.

Yet, strangely enough, I would undoubtedly be unhappier in a place where snow was on the ground four months a year than I am in New York. The snow's nuisance value would then cease to be a value, and become an annoyance. For all my love of the snow, I would undoubtedly learn to hate it wholeheartedly. Then, if I moved back to New York, my old feeling would quickly return. That is because my love of the snow is really a love for the unexpected and the mildly adventurous, but not for the uncomfortable.

AMATEURS BACK ON ICE

It's perfect ice skating weather: sunny, windy, and cold.

"Y' wanna go ice skating, Sunday? We're all goin!"

"The kids" walk down the street wearing their long, brightly striped scarfs, their ice skates banging over their shoulders.

The crowd meets at the station. A gay subway trip brings them to the park. The line of prospective skaters extends all the way under the bridge. Walking to the end, all prepare for a long cold, wait.

There are many policemen around and a couple of toughs eye their guns curiously.

An attendant calls out, "No more sizes seven and a half, and nine." A long, groan echoes the length of the crowd. The kids who have their own skates grin smugly because they don't have to worry about renting them.

The skate-house is the same as last year, dilapidated, green, and crowded. Everyone tries to squeeze into the same incredibly small space on the benches. They tug at their laces, impatient to be out on the ice. Tiny bells tinkle in their beds of multicolored pom-poms.

When they're finally outside they pause hesitantly on the rim of the rink. The wind bites their cheeks. Each longs to join the bright fast moving circle. Then one sees a gap, glides off, and becomes part of a red, black, and white spinning top. People call to one another across the rink. Everyone is laughing and smiling. A beginner stumbles past. You swerve and join the expert inner circle. One, two, three, four—slide. It's great to be on the ice again.

Alumnews

Congratulations to our principal, Dr. Bernstein, on the birth of a boy to his daughter Charlotte, class of '46.

Myrna Coburn, a 1956 graduate, now attending Carnegie Tech, has returned to writing, her first love. Her blank verse play, "Blue Chapel", was staged in November by the Studio Theatre of Carnegie's drama school.

This past October, Howard Beal and David West completed basic training at the U.S. Coast Guard Receiving Center, Cape May, N. J. We wish them good luck.

Roy Lance Furman, June 1956 former feature editor of the Argus is now the literary editor of the Brooklyn College yearbook, "Broeklundian."

Our best wishes to Elaine Feuer, 1956, who was married in March of this year to Henry R. David. He is in his third year at dental school and she is attending Brooklyn College in the evenings.

Dennis Paget, class of June 1955, was elected Vice-Counsellor of the Inter-Fraternity Council of Brooklyn College.

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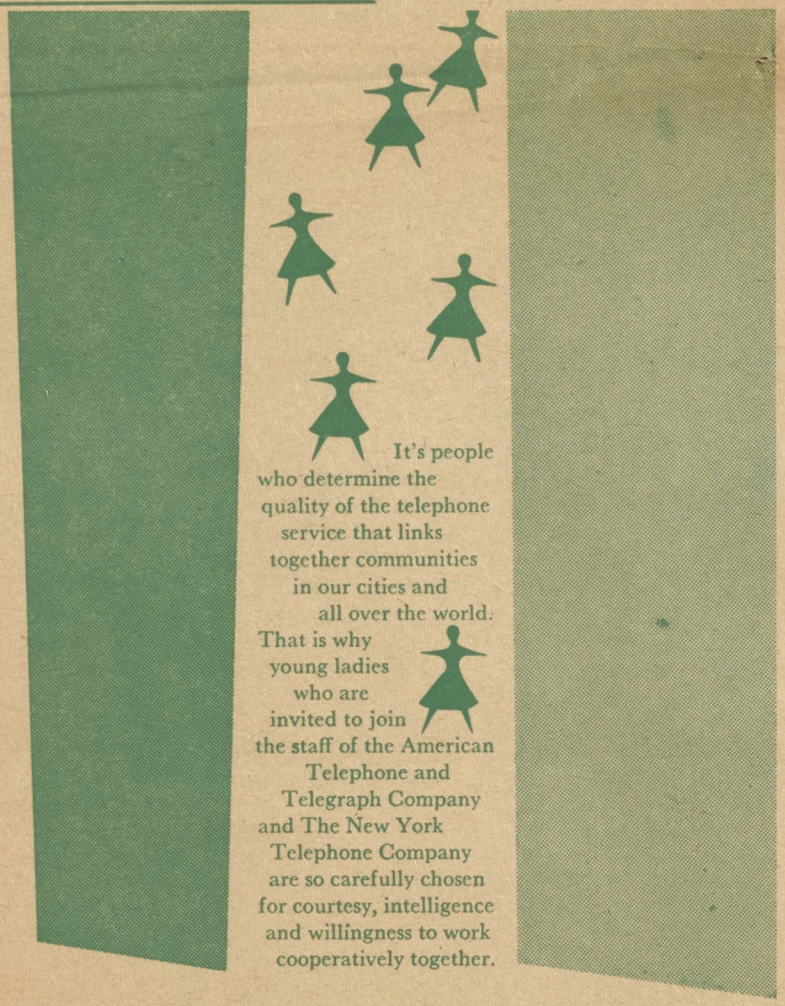
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GRIDDERS DEFEAT LINCOLN; END SKED WITH 2-5 MARK

In a real thriller, the Mid-eleven defeated Lincoln by a score of 18-14.

Lincoln fumbled the kick with Midwood recovering on the Abe's 35. Three plays later, the Midmen scored with Quarterback Tom Seccia tossing a pass to Marty Halleran in the end zone. The extra points were missed and Midwood held a 6-0 lead.

Later, in the first quarter, Lincoln drove to the Midwood four yard line. Then, Sal DiFranco rolled out around right end to score. The points after touchdown were good and Lincoln led 8-6.

In the second quarter, the Midwood offense began to click again. Seccia fired a 25 yard pass to Emil Ostenberg on the Lincoln 33. After Artie Morris and Marty Halleran advanced the ball to the Abes's three yard line. Fullback Bob Watt bulled his way over for the T.D. The conversion attempt was missed and the score read at the half, Midwood 12, Lincoln 8.

Early in the second half, the Glenwood Roaders punted to midfield. After another exchange of kicks, Lincoln began to move. The Abes scored eight plays later on an end run. However, the Midwood line broke through to smother its try for the extra points.

Soon after, the Blue and White tallied again with Seccia diving over from the three. The score now stood at 18-14.

With two minutes left in the game, Lincoln caught fire and marched fifty yards to a first down on the Midwood 3.

By virtue of a trmendous goal line stand, Lincoln was stopped cold on four successive plays to clinch the Midwood victory.

Midwood's hopes of defeating Boys' High for the second year in a row were dashed as the Midmen bowed to a strong Boys' team by a score of 40-14.

Boys' sprinted to a 20-0 lead at the half with Larry Flagg scoring twice. Quarterback Carmin DeSarlo's brilliant passing accounted for the other touchdown.

In the second half, the Glenwood Roaders came to life. Tom Seccia capped a 40 yard drive by plunging over from the home team's one yard line. Bob Watt crashed through the Boys' High defenses for the Blue and White's other score. However, the heavier Boys' team scored twenty points in the last quarter and emerged victorious.

On November 22, the 1958 campaign ended with defeat at the hands of Lafayette, 21-14.

Lafayette's Pushinsky returned the opening kickoff for a touchdown. The kick for the extra point was good and the Frenchies led 7-0.

Later in the first period Midwood's Sandy Sorowitz caught a Seccia pass for a touchdown. Artie Morris ran for the extra two points and the score stood 8-7, Midwood. However, late in the second period, Pushinsky scored again but the extra point attempt failed, making the halftime score 13-8 in favor of Lafayette.

The Frenchies scored in the final period when Rod Hanover caught a Mike Oshan pass for a touchdown. With the extra two point attempt being good, the score read 21-8.

The final score came when Bob Watt plowed through for five yards for the second Midwood touchdown.

Archie Sader, Roy Meyers

Sportlight

One of the best known and best liked members of the basketball team is Bruce Dribbon. Dribbon, who has been on the team for three years is now starting forward. After joining the team in his sophomore year, a bout with pneumonia kept him out of action for the season. Excellent on defense, Dribbon is equally proficient when Midwood possesses the ball. Bruce feels that this year's team may turn out to be one of the most surprising in the city, and he says, "For the first time in three years we're all together."

Bruce Dribbon

Bruce remarks, "The most exciting moment in my basketball careeer occurred during the game with Eastern District on November 21st. The game had been close all the way and it looked as if we were going to lose. I grabbed the ball and in the last five seconds, managed to get the tying basket." Bruce also stole the ball in the overtime and scored the winning two points.

Dribbon's enthusiasm is not confined to basketball. Baseball, tennis and many other sports interest him. He attends almost all the Midwood sporting events, and feels that other students should also attend to give the teams moral support. Bruce says, "When the kids show up at a game, it's great. The support so far this year has been tremendous."

Bruce has also been active in student government. He was president of his class in his freshman year. His experiences include summer work in a finance company and acting as a counselor in a summer camp.

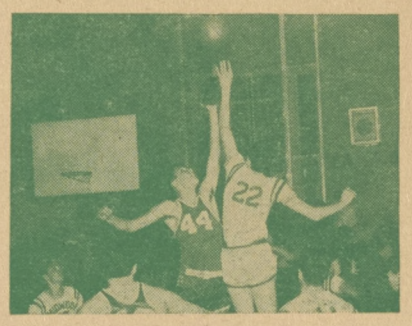
Bruce's parents are all for his playing. In fact, his father taught him every sport he knows—except basketball. All Mr. Dribbon asks is that Bruce keep up his 85 average. Bruce is also concerned with keeping up his grades as his college plans center around Columbia, Clark, or the University of Florida. After college, he hopes to enter medical school. Bruce intends to play college ball unless it interferes with his scholastic standing. "Education," he says, "is my primary objective, as far as college goes."

Jeff Weiss

Wingate Tops Cagers

Midwood's basketball team, victorious in its first two games against New Utrecht and Eastern District, bowed to Wingate, one of the strongest teams in the city.

In the season's opener, the Mid-quintet took an early lead and never relinquished it. Elliot Gerson accounted for nineteen points of the Midwood total with Bruce Dribbon controlling the backboards in addition to scoring thirteen points. On the defensive, the team was sparked by the outstanding play of Richie McGoldrich. The game ended with Midwood out in front by a 66-45 score.



Lindenauer (22) Gets The Tap

Beating Eastern District proved to be more difficult. Everything went against the Middies. The ball was stolen from them several times and when they did have possession they couldn't score. With the score 13 to 4 at the end of the quarter, things didn't look good for the Midmen. However, before the visitors could score another basket in the second quarter, Midwood tied it up. After that the score remained close for the balance of the game.

Although Midwood's rebounding combination of Lindenauer and Fishkin was no match for Eastern's high jumpers, the Middies cashed in on the recoveries they did get. Defensively, McGoldrich again did a great job of limiting the oppositions' scoring opportunities and in holding the defense together.

Although Gerson led the scoring parade with 24 points, it was Bruce Dribbon who saved the game with his great over-all playing.

Eastern had the ball and was leading by a basket with about thirty seconds to go. They tried to freeze the ball but the Middies managed to get it with ten seconds remaining. The hoopsters then called time which enabled them to bring the ball into play at half-court. With time for only one play, Dribbon scored on a lay-up, sending the game into a three minute overtime. Bruce scored four quick points in the overtime which gave Midwood a lead that they kept and swept to a 54-52 victory.

The victory skein was checked in the Wingate game. The opposition jumped to a 17-4 lead at the end of the first quarter. Although Elliot Gerson tallied 27 points, it was to a losing cause as Wingate won 73-54. This was the first league game the team has played.

On December 5, Midwood defeated Adelphia Academy, 56-47.

The Midmen led 24-18 at the half, overcoming a first quarter 12-10 deficit. In the final quarter, Midwood's offense was too much for Adelphia, and the Mid-Five won easily.

In its second league contest, Midwood was unable to keep up with the rapid pace set by Tilden, being defeated by the score of 56-44.

Mike Huss

Kickoff

HOWIE BLAU

"They played their best game of the season, but lost," was the consensus following the 1958 football finals against Lafayette. The Mid-Eleven, seeking to salvage something out of a rather disappointing season held a great Frenchy team to a 21-14 count. For a while it looked as if Midwood could pull an upset, but Mike Oshan, triple-threat Lafayette quarterback, rose to the occasion. Engineering two touchdown drives with his passes and timely interceptions, Oshan thusly sealed the fate of the Midmen.

The likes of Watt, Seccia, Ziskis, Ostenberg, Siev, Dechowitz, Auerbach, Luchase, Freeman, Fogel, McKee, Wachs, and Urove are being graduated this June. With them on the squad, the season's record was 2-5. Next year, they will be gone. How many games will the Mid-Eleven win without them?

* * * *

Congrats to Tom Seccia, Bob Watt, and Sandy Sorowitz for receiving honorable mention in the N. Y. News Brooklyn-Queens All-Scholastic team. Seccia and Watt will be gone next year and Coach Eisenberg will undoubtedly build next year's eleven around Sorowitz, Artie Morris, Marty Halleran, and Bert Flugman. I hope they're more successful than this year's squad.

* * * *

On Friday night, November 21, we were interested observers of the Midwood-Eastern District basketball game. After hearing about the Mid-Five's tremendous opening game victory over New Utrecht, we decided to see what material the team had this year. By virtue of terrific shooting by Bruce Dribbon and Elliot Gerson ,the squad eked out a two point overtime victory. However, more impressive to the large partisan crowd was the defensive play of Richie McGoldrich. Richie seemed to be all over the court, ball-hawking and being a general nuisance to the Eastern District offense. It was a wonderful boost for the team to have won this game, and those who missed it, missed a beauty.

* * * *

Thanks a lot to all those who submitted replies to our sports quiz of last month. The correct answers in order of questions are: Notre Dame and Knute Rockne; Jim Lemon, Oscar Robertson, Hank Bauer, Don Bowden, Ashley Cooper, Virgil Akins, Bobby Jones, Polo, Brown and Grier. The next quiz will appear in the issue coming out at the end of January. Congratulations to the winners: Artie Cohen, Mike Kalter, Joel Schiff, Cliff Shenghit, and Mike Scherer.

BROOKLYN, N.Y.